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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Caspian Sea Area

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.

The Caspian Sea has shallowed considerably since 1943, leaving such former seaports as Livan' (now Kaspiyskiy) far inland. Soundings are shallower off Gurev, from a former depth of 4.8 meters at Bolshoy Peshnoy Island to a present depth of about three meters. The 12-foot roadstead of Astrakhan has been moved about 18 miles further south, and is now the 14-foot roadstead. A navigable channel is to be built to Gurev, which is now closed to sea traffic.

2.

Maximum draft of vessels on the Ural River is 2 to 2½ meters, the Volga carries vessels of three ft maximum draft, from the 14 ft roadstead, past Astrakhan,

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